Estimates for the Construction of the Alwaye Bridge.

50. **MR. C. P. TARAKAN** (*Kunnatnad*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether estimates for the bridge proposed to be newly constructed near the Alwaye ferry are ready in the Chief Engineer's Office?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): An estimate for the work is under scrutiny in the Chief Engineer's Office.

MR. C. P. TARAKAN (*Kunnatnad*): എസ്റ്റിമേറ്റ് എന്നത്തേയ്ക്ക് തയ്യാറാകുമെന്ന ഉദ്ദേശമെങ്കിലും പറയാൻ സാധിക്കുമോ?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): This is what the Chief Engineer says :—

"The estimate for Rs. 2 lakhs and odd, already forwarded to Government, is being scrutinised in the Chief Engineer's Office to see if it would suit present conditions, in the light of the surveys, levels and soundings just received from the Division Officer, Alwaye, and if not, to revise it to suit current prices of materials and labour".

If necessary, a revision also will have to be made. I cannot therefore say exactly when the estimate will be ready.

Corruption re sale of salt at Munambam.

51. **MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI** (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*): (1) With reference to the statement of the President of the Legislative Council on the 6th August, 1924, regarding corruption in the sale of salt in the Salt Bankshall at Munambam, have the Government conducted any fresh enquiry into the matter?

(2) If so, what is the nature of the enquiry and what is the decision thereon?

(3) If the matter has not yet been decided, will the Government be pleased to appoint a committee with a non-official majority to enquire into the same?

MR. N. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government on other duty*): (1), (2) and (3) In pursuance of the statement made by the President of the Legislative Council on the 6th August, 1924, further enquiries were made by Government on the allegations regarding corruption in the sale of salt at Munambam. It was found that Mr. Kumara Pillai's statement at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the above-mentioned date, that the complaints regarding the sale of salt arose long before the enhancement of duty on salt, was not correct. The complaints originated only after the enhancement of salt duty. Further, the plea that the allegation of Mr. Khadir Pillai in the Council had reference only to the collection of excess duty was not raised by the Excise Commissioner but by Mr. Khadir Pillai himself. Mr. Khadir Pillai did not want the Excise Commissioner to proceed with the enquiry started by him in connection with the complaints. Hence no further action was considered necessary.

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MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*): It is stated in the answer:—

"In pursuance of the statement made by the President of the Legislative Council on the 6th August 1924, further enquiries were made by Government on the allegations regarding corruption in the sale of salt at Munambam".

ഗവർണ്മെൻറു നടത്തീട്ടുള്ള ഈ നടപടികളുടെ ഫലം എന്താണന്നുപറയാമൊ?

MR. N. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government on other duty*): The next sentence gives the result of the investigation.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*): I am coming to that later on.

ഗവർണ്മെൻറു വീണ്ടും നടപടി നടത്തിയതിൻെറ ഫലം എന്തായിരുന്നു എന്നാണ് ചോദിച്ചതു്?

MR. N. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government on other duty*): As a result of the investigation, they arrived at the finding given in the next sentence.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*): The next sentence says:—

"It was found that Mr. Kumara Pillai's statement at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the above-mentioned date, that the complaints regarding the sale of salt arose long before the enhancement of duty on salt, was not correct"-

I would like to know where I have said that.

MR. N. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government on other duty*): In the discussion on 22nd Karkadakam 1099, Vol. V, No. 6, pages 372, 373 and 380.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*): Which is the portion? Will the Member please read it?

MR. N. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government on other duty*): That is the general trend of the whole speech. I cannot read the particular passage.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*): I cannot understand that. It is stated in the answer—

"It was found that Mr. Kumara Pillai's *statement*, at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the above-mentioned date, that the complaints regarding the sale of salt arose long before the enhancement of duty on salt, was not correct".

It is specifically stated that a *statement* to this effect was made by me. I wish to know where I have made the statement.

MR. N. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government on other duty*): That is the impression formed by reading through the speech.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*): I am sorry. ഞാൻ അങ്ങനെ പറഞ്ഞിട്ടില്ല. ഞാൻ പറയാത്ത ഒരു സംഗതിയാണ് ഇതിൽ പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നു സ്ഥാപിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതു്. ഞാൻ അങ്ങനെ

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[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

പറഞ്ഞെങ്കിൽ മാത്രമേ ഈ മറുപടിക്കു രക്ഷയുള്ളൂ.

MR. N. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government on other duty*): I wish to raise a point of order. Is the member permitted to make a speech on this occasion ?

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*): It is not a speech. I wanted simply to explain to the President. If that should not be done, I am not going to do it.

PRESIDENT: That is not strictly in order. You can only ask a supplementary question now.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*) : All right, Sir; thank you.

മിസ്റ്റർ കാദർ പിള്ള പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളതു് അങ്ങനെയല്ല. മുനമ്പം ഉപ്പുപണ്ടകശാലയിൽ നിന്നു ഉപ്പു വാങ്ങിക്കണമെങ്കിൽ സിൽബന്ധികൾക്കു പൈസവീതം കൊടുക്കണം എന്നാണ്. അതിനു ഗവർണ്മെന്റു എന്തു നടപടി നടത്തി?

It is stated in the answer.

" Further, the plea that the allegation of Mr. Khadir Pillai in the Council had reference only to the collection of the excess duty was not raised by the Excise Commissioner but by Mr. Khadiar Pillai himself".

Mr. Khadir Pillai did not say so.

MR. N. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government on other duty*) : There is a mis-statement in the question. Mr. Khadir Pillai said that a payment of about three pies to the underlings and one rupee to the Assistant Excise Commissioner had to be made.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*) : May I read that portion?

PRESIDENT: Yes, you may.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*) ; This is what Mr. Khadir Pillai says:—

" To get salt, the Excise authorities who issue salt select a few merchants who are the favourites of the Assistant Commissioner or others. I can give evidence that those who pay or do something to please the Assistant Commissioner and others alone get salt".

In another portion he says :—

".....in the Munambam Salt Depôt, three pies are to be given to the depôt officers to get salt. Now, at this time, to get salt early, the merchants will have to pay more. Otherwise they will have to stay there for many days; and the Depôt Officer will say, 'It is not convenient to me; there are other people who will have to be sold salt to' and so on. So, to get salt early, the merchants have to pay something to the officers".

That is the statement made by Mr. Khadir Pillai.

MR. N. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government on other duty*): I am awaiting the question for which an answer is required.

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MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*): മിസ്റ്റർ കാതർ പിള്ള പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ള ന- പൈസാവീതം മുനമ്പം ഡിപ്പോവിൽനിന്നും അവിടത്തെ അധികൃതന്മാർ വാങ്ങിവരുന്ന എന്ന സംഗതിയെപ്പറ്റി ഗവർണ്മെൻറ് അന്വേഷിക്കയോ വേണ്ട നടപടി നടത്തുകയോ ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

MR. N. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government on other duty*): Enquiry was directed towards facts newly elicited in the discussion.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*): What is that 'newly elicited fact'? I cannot follow.

MR. N. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government on other duty*): It is given at the end of the Member's speech.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Kalkulum* cum *Vilavankod*): Page, please?

MR. N. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government on other duty*): Page 380. It is stated:—

"The date of the Forest Committee can be had from the Conservator of Forests and the other date from the Excise Commissioner."

PRESIDENT: Mr. Kumara Pillai, I think I can give you the answer. When the enquiry was proceeding, or when it was about to proceed, Mr. Khadir Pillai was satisfied that the allegations he made were not strictly correct, and, therefore, he asked the Excise Commissioner to drop the enquiry.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*): He cannot do that, Sir, because he said so in the open Council.

PRESIDENT: Outside the Council, he said that the enquiry need not be proceeded with, since his allegations were not strictly correct.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*): In the Council he expressed a particular opinion. He cannot change it outside the Council.

PRESIDENT: He is a perfectly free agent.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*): We, as members of the Council, cannot allow that.

PRESIDENT: You can call upon him to explain.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*): No, Sir; I do not want that.

PRESIDENT: The enquiry was not proceeded with because the allegations were found to be incorrect.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*): അടുത്തചോദ്യം എനിക്കുള്ളതു് ഫ-ാംതീയതി ഉപ്പിനു വിലകൂടി എന്നുള്ള വിവരം ന-ാംതീയതി മാത്രമേ മുനമ്പത്തു് അറിവു കിട്ടിയുള്ളോ എന്നാണ്. ഫ-ം ഫ-ം തീയതികളിൽ വിറ്റഴിച്ചുള്ള ഉപ്പിന്റെ നഷ്ടം തീരുവാൻ

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[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

ചിന്നിട്ട കൂടുതൽ ഉപ്പ വാങ്ങി എന്നാണ് പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളത്. അതിന്റെ വാസ്തവം ഗവർണ്മെന്റ് അന്വേഷിക്കുമോ?

MR. N. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government on other duty*): I have already stated that the enquiry was directed towards facts newly elicited at the discussion and it consisted in ascertaining the date of the Forest Committee's meeting held at Alwaye as 24-10-1098, the date of the enhancement of duty on salt as 17-7-1098, and the date of the letter said to have been written by Mr. Khadir Pillai in the discussion in the Council as 22-12-1098. This led Government to come to the finding given in the answer.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilâvankod*): Sir, I would like to read a portion of the discussion in the Council, for your information; because then only will I be able to ask another question.

PRESIDENT: I do not think you can give us any information now. You can only ask a question.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*): The President has stated thus—

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): I rise to a point of order as to whether the member is entitled to make a speech or to make references to other speeches during question time. Under the rules, he can only elicit information. He cannot draw any inferences or make a speech or reference during question time.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavânkod*): Points of order are for the President to decide.

PRESIDENT: I have just ruled that the member is not entitled to give information to the Council and that he must confine himself to definite questions.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*):

"An enquiry was made on the statement made by Mr. Daniel and Mr. Khadir Pillai on that occasion. If further statements are made, further enquiries will be made."

പ്രസിഡന്റ് ഇങ്ങനെയാണോ പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളത്?

MR. N. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government on other duty*): I have given you the scope and the result of the investigation.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*): അതിനെപ്പറ്റി വീണ്ടും ഗവർണ്മെന്റ് അന്വേഷിക്കാൻ വിചാരിക്കുന്നുണ്ടോ?

MR. N. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government on other duty*): I claim notice.

Prohibition orders on Dr. Emperumal Naidu of Nagercoil.

52. **MR. M. N. PILLAI** (*Trivandrum*): (*a*) Are the Government aware that the Government order confirming the orders of the District Magistrates of Quilon and Trivandrum prohibiting Dr. Emperumal Naidu of Nagercoil from speaking in public is still in force?

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